

Anthony's Origins

**And Other Thomas The
Tank Engine Stories**





This is my book.
My name is

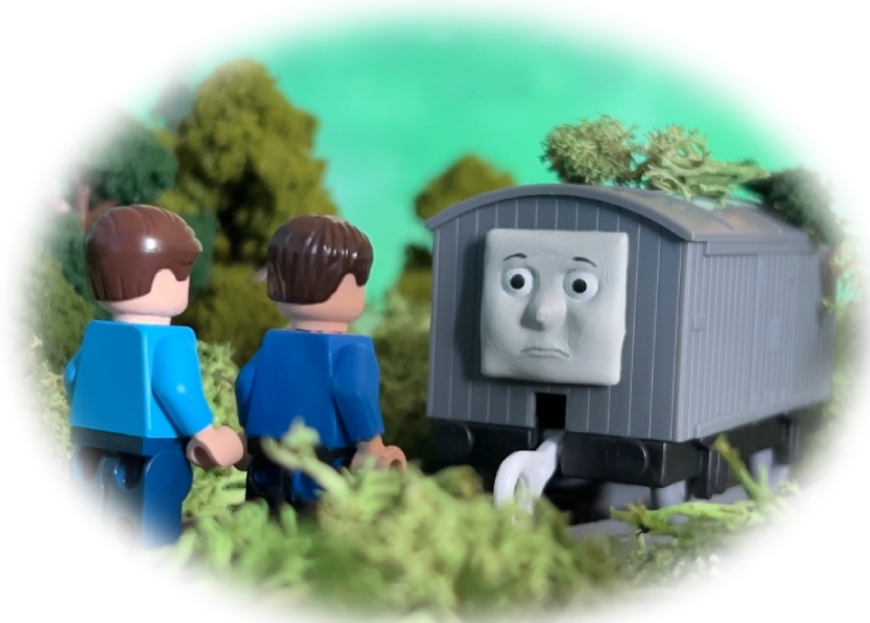
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Will you please read it to me?

Thank you.

Anthony's Origins

And Other Thomas The Tank Engine Stories



A Custom PICTUREBACK Book
Photographs by Cameran Case for own YouTube
production of *Thomas The Tank Engine Adventures*.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS
Based on The Railway Series by Rev. W. Awdry
Created by Britt Allcroft

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Anthony's origins and other Thomas the tank engine stories.

p. cm. -- (A customized Pictureback book based by Random House)

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I. Children's stories, English. {1. Railroads--Trains--Fiction}

I.Awdry, W. railway series. II.Random House Pictureback

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ANTHONY'S ORIGINS

Far away on the Mainland, there lived two young boys. The boys were orphans and became recently adopted by their Aunt Tony, who then rediscovered both the boys one day. Their house lived in the woods by the countryside, away from the hustle and bustle of the busy cities. Despite that, trains would be heard not so far away with whistles blowing miles away.

One Sunday, the boys had just turned 10, and wanted to explore what's in the woods.

"I've needed one of you two to help me around." Aunt Tony would say.

"But Auntie." One of them said, "We would want to explore in the woods together."

"I know you two want to have fun outside together. But someone has to help me so I don't feel too lonely." Aunt Tony was getting old and was starting to become disabled. "If you go too far, you wouldn't find your way home now would you?"

"Please Tony. We promise not to go too far. We just need to remember landmarks to help guide us."



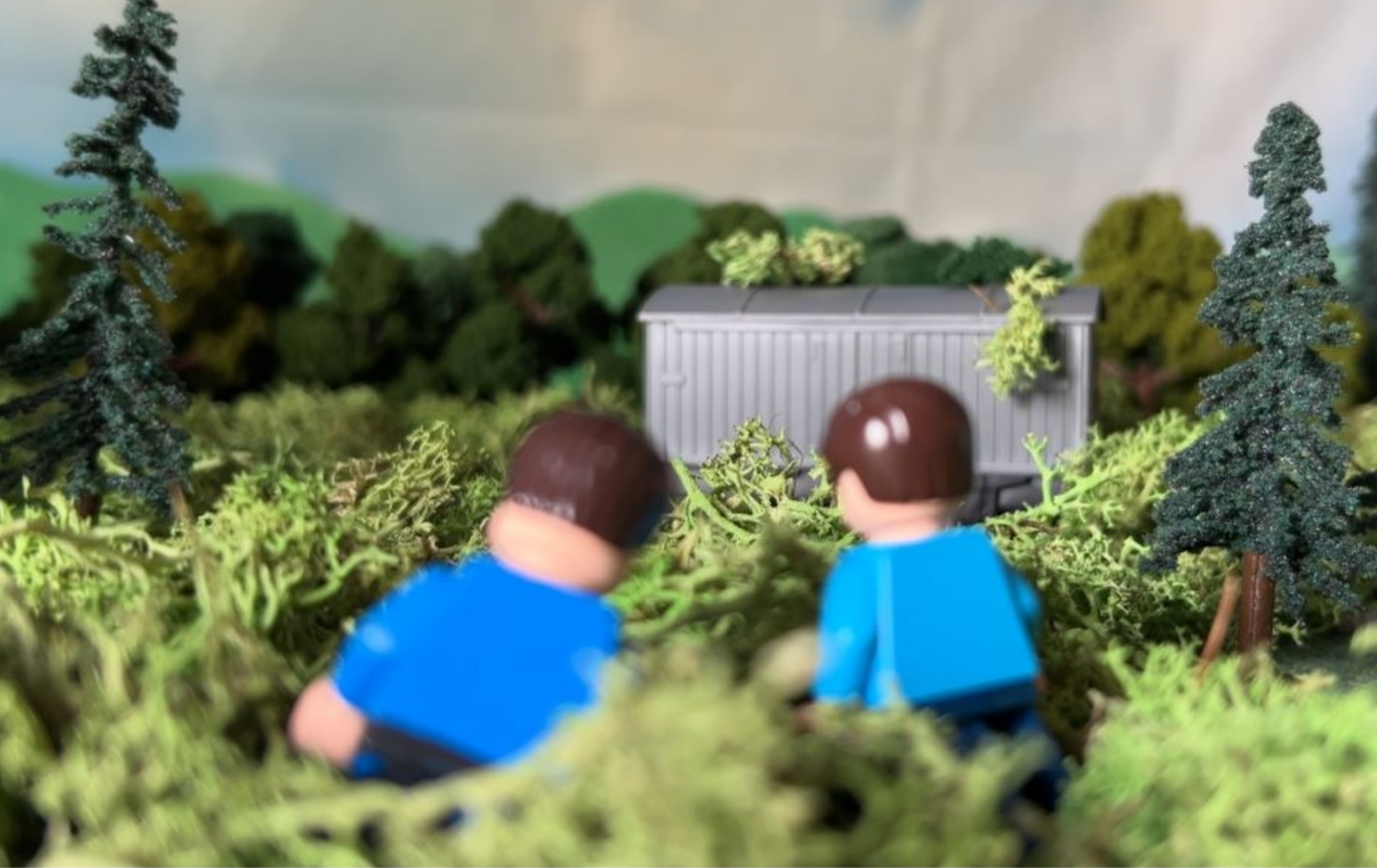
“Now, now my dear boys.” She continued. “It may be hard for you to look for them. You’re only starting to get more familiar with everything.”

“Yes Tony.” “We understand Auntie.”

“Could you please fetch me some porridge please.” She asked.

The boys helped their Aunt Tony around the house keeping her hospitalized. When the time came, Aunt Tony gave permission to let her boys explore the woods.

“Don’t be gone too long!” She called.



The Boys passed through small creeks, climbed dirt paths, until they spotted something unfamiliar...

The Boys got closer and closer, it was an old box-van sitting alone on an abandoned siding.

“What’s this doing here?” one asked.

“Trains don’t come here that often anymore.” said the other.

The boys took a closer look, and even one tried to open the sliding door, it was stuck, until it was open.

“Hey!” shouted a voice.

“Who’s there?”



“It was me, dunce!”

“Show yourself!”

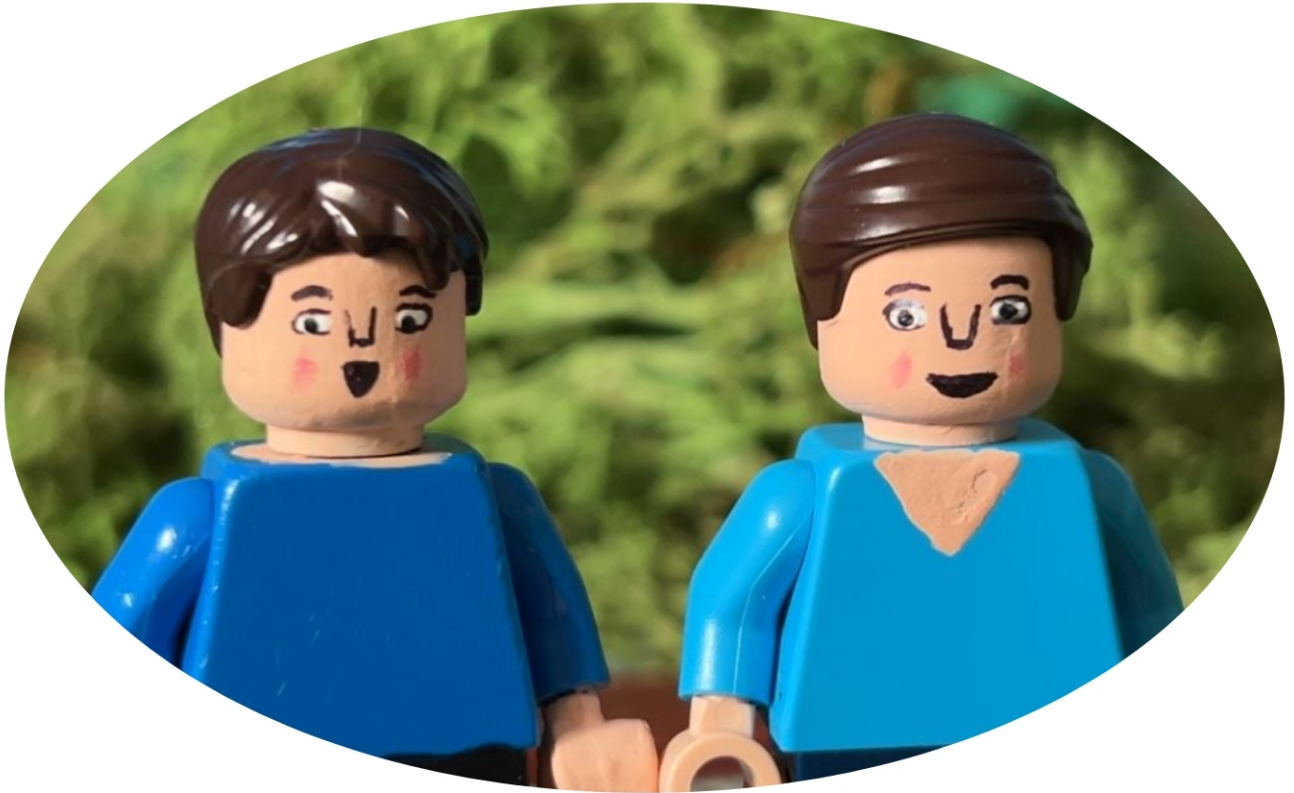
“I’m the box-van talking to ya!” It revealed that the box-van was alive.

“You can talk?”

“Of course I can talk! What else were you expecting? Prosecutors?”

“What are you doing here in the middle of the woods?”

The box-van sighed. “I was just an ordinary van just like the others. My wish was to become something else one day, other than being ordinary goods. A long time ago, I was detached from an empty freight train, and rolled down a branch line and into a siding. I waited a long time, but no one came, so I was left there eternity.”



“That’s quite an unfortunate tale you told us.”

“Where did you come from?”

“We’re a quarter mile through here, living with our Aunt Tony. We’ll stop by sometimes to see you.”

“That sounds good, I like to have company, especially since before being here.”

The boys smiled as they went home.

That evening, Aunt Tony asked how it was like exploring the woods.

“We’ve seen an old box-van abandoned in the woods.”

“And it talks!”



Aunt Tony seemed little to no astonishment. “That’s nice you’ve discovered something that’s lost. However, it’s dangerous to be near railways or hunt down in the woods, you could’ve been hurt.”

“We were careful Auntie.” The boy rolled his eyes.

“Still, I stand by what I say.” And she rehashed everything from before, the boys grew tired of it.

“Yes Tony, we understand.”

Over the next few weeks, the boys kept looking after Aunt Tony. They were also homeschooled. And soon, due to the boys being busy, they never got the chance to see the box-van. The box-van began to think that the boys would never see him again.



Years had passed, and the boys had forgotten about the box-van.

“Hey Ouglas, remember about the box-van we found out in the woods?”

“What about it, David?”

“I think we should make use of it, like for storage or a playhouse? I’m reading this magazine I found up in the attic.”

“Then I think we should revisit it at once.”

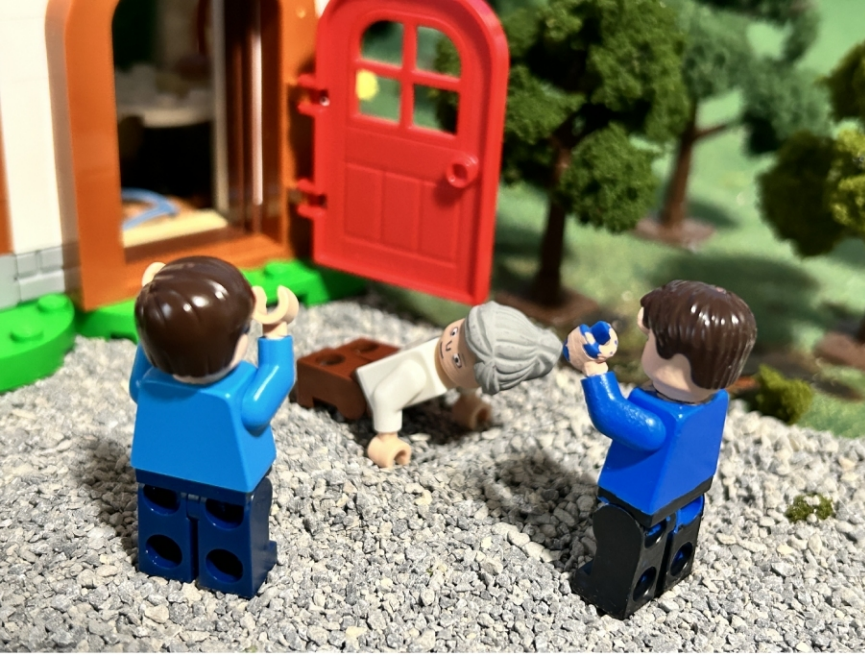
They left the house, and Aunt Tony’s hospitality was thrown out the window!

The box-van was delighted to see the boys again.

“Oh thank goodness you’re back!” He cheered. “I thought for a moment it was some large animal, like a bear or fox.”

“We have the idea to put you to good use.” They suggested.

“Really? That’s wonderful! I can’t wait to be “back in action”, so to speak.”



Suddenly, they heard a faint thud, followed by a cry for “HELP!”

“It sounds like Auntie! Let’s go back.”

“We’ll be back soon! This is a family emergency.”

The boys found that Aunt Tony had fallen over from the stairs.

“Auntie!” “Tony!” “What happened?!”

“My legs gave out,” she strained.

“Call the emergency service!”

The emergency crew arrived and the boys watched Aunt Tony sadly go into the Emergency Room. They never saw Aunt Tony since, and it has been a fortnight past. The boys still visit the box-van regardless. One day, someone knocked on the door, it was the doctor.

“Are you Tony’s nephews?”

“Yes we are.”

“I have come to inform you that your Aunt Tony has passed away this morning.”

“Then who’s going to look after the mortgage and us?”

“That would be your responsibility. We unfortunately cannot help you at the moment.”

The doctor left, the boys had an idea on where to focus on shelter.

“Let’s do it!” they discussed.



The Boys arrived at the box-van, and explained what happened over the past fortnight.

“I’m sorry to hear that.”

“Since, Aunt Tony is no longer with us to help keep the roof over our heads, we’ll turn you into our new home over the month.”

The box-van was delighted. They grabbed materials from their shed and began to work on transforming the abandoned box-van into their mobile home.



The project was done just in time, the boys were sad to see their stuff being gone, so they got what they could to fit inside the box-van.

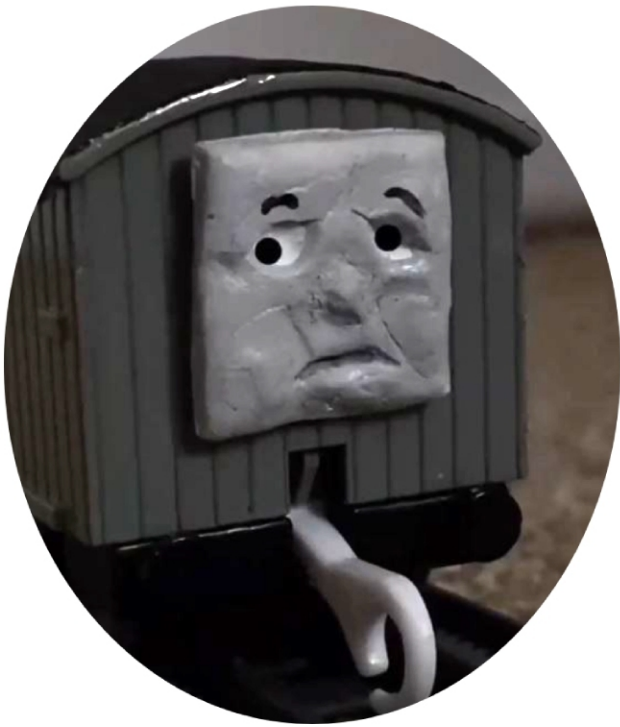
“I’ve never got to ask you two, what are your names?” The box-van asked.

“I’m Ouglas, I’m David.” Both the boys answered. “What’s yours?”

“I don’t have a name unfortunately.” sighed the box-van.

“How about we call you ‘Anthony’, named after our Aunt Tony who adopted us.”

And the name stuck with Anthony, he was cheerful.



The Boys lived inside Anthony for nearly 20 years, and had relocated several times. Now, they were getting ready to move into a house they just bought just outside the big city. Anthony suddenly became bored again.

“Excuse me, I know you love me as your home, but I would live to become more than just a mobile home.”

“Already?”

“What plans do you have?”

“Well, David would like to become a filmmaker...”

“That was 20 years ago, I’m wishing to become a vacation tourist instead.”

“You know, you can make your childhood wishes come true.”

“Eeh, I guess you’re right. I do have the best idea that no one else has probably done before.”

“What would it be?”

“How would you like to play movies in railway yards?”

“Really? For Real?” Anthony stuttered.

“I’ll get started on the blueprints shortly.”

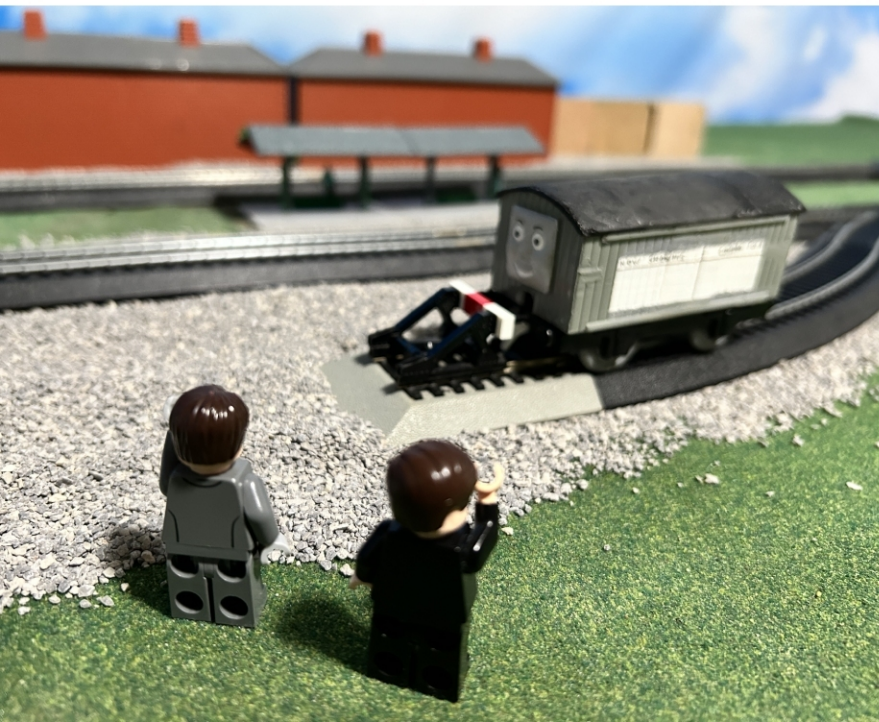
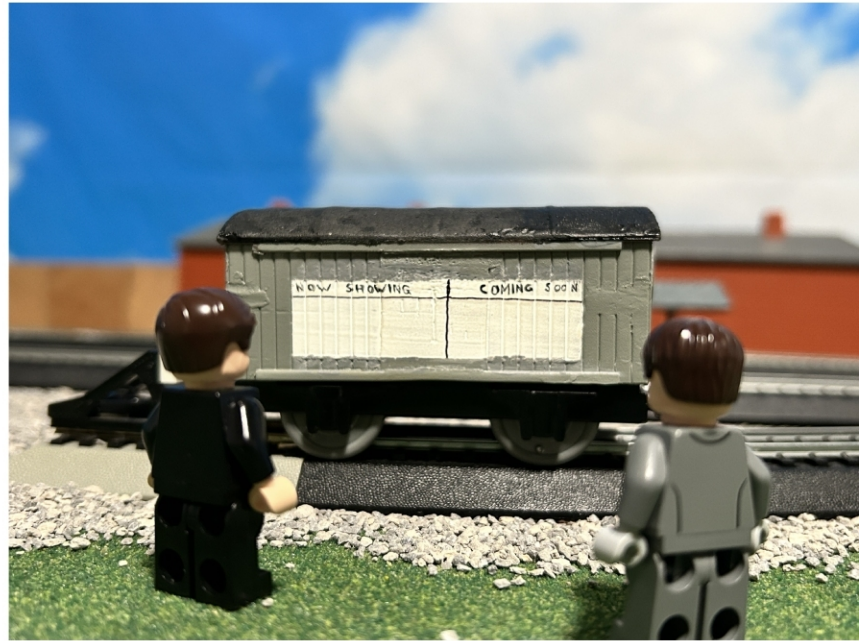
The boys dubbed it as “Project: Railway Movie Van” and was now underway.



At last, the project was complete.
And Anthony now had a purpose
which he'll never get bored of.

“We have to go now Anthony.”
Said the boys.

Anthony felt sad to see the boys
who had made a new life for him,
twice, leave him behind and move
on in their own lives.



“I’ll miss you very much.” He
sighed. “You gave me what you
wished for. I’ll be more than
delighted for what the future
holds.”

They gave their goodbyes,
tears were shed, as they parted
ways.



Anthony was optimistic of his new life. He is distinguished from the rest of the rolling stock, and showcased motion pictures and slideshows during appropriate nights. Though he'll never forget the two boys (as well with remembrance of their Aunt Tony) who restored him, his new life was here to stay, lasting a lifetime.

DANGEROUS BRANCH LINE

“I keep telling you Thomas,” said Gordon one day, “You can’t judge shortcuts regardless if it takes you to be early or late.”

Thomas was late yesterday from his branch line duties and wanted to take shortcuts to be early.

“I, for one thing, went down the wrong line and got myself too big for my buffers. And that line was by the small village and farmland of Kellaby. Thankfully, no one else has used it since.”





“I can go on that line,” Thomas speculated, “If you’re too heavy and going fast, you’ll end up in trouble. For me, I’m a-okay even when I’m just going a little bit faster, but not too fast.”

“Regardless of what your beliefs are, don’t go down that line.” Gordon implored. “Otherwise, you’re taking your life into your own self.”



Thomas was on his way down to Crovan's Gate, where the little engines visited the bigger engines. He had to drop off passengers who lived on his Branch Line. On the way, he noticed a small junction from the far left track.

"I think that's the shortcut that Gordon was talking about." Thomas wondered.

When he dropped off the passengers, Skarloey was there. This made Thomas ask, "Do you know if any shortcuts are safe?"



“I certainly don’t know Thomas,” answered Skarloey, “But I do know that repairs on these lines don’t last forever. If it’s damaged, it gets repaired, and the cycle continues.”

This didn’t really answer Thomas’ question. “But, does your railway have any shortcuts, if they do, does it save time?”

“I don’t know Thomas, however I do believe an old friend of ours knew all the routes and shortcuts if any. It did only save about only a minute or two, but I wouldn’t trust them, they could be dangerous.”

“I’ll take your word Skarloey, I have to get going.” And Thomas departed from the platform.



He exchanged the coaches at the sheds with a few freight cars to be taken to the western side of the Island. The freight was heavy and made Thomas slower than usual. This gave him an idea.

“Perhaps, I might take that shortcut I saw earlier today. How bad can it be?”

And he did so, his fireman switched the points, and headed down the shortcut. Thomas knew full well that shortcuts are dangerous and doesn’t matter if it saves time or not.

Thomas decided to pick up some speed as he approached a downhill gradient, but wanted to go just a little faster. As he was going down the slight downhill, the weight of the freight cars made the rails sag and lean downward towards farmland.





“We better slow down,” said his driver.

He applied the brakes, but the freight cars’ weight made it slower to perform. Before Thomas’ crew could do anything else to slow down, the middle car slid off the tracks, bringing Thomas and the rest of the cars along. The crew got off just in time, and Thomas was dragged off the tracks, down the embankment, and into a fallow field.





Thomas laid stiff in the cold mush soil. His crew were not amused.
“You silly engine!” his driver reprimanded. “Now look what’s happened!”

“I only wanted to take a shortcut to see if it’s safe and saves time...”

“Rubbish! You should’ve listened to Gordon and Skarloey. Shortcuts aren’t necessarily safe, and this line is basically the same length as that portion of the Main Line!”

Thomas felt silly.



When help arrived, Thomas was towed back to home by road. He was shortly repaired the next day as he came back ready to work.

“What did I tell you about using shortcuts, Thomas?”

“You’re right.” Thomas said foolishly. “You can’t judge shortcuts regardless if they save time or not, they aren’t always safe.”





CAROLS ON WHEELS

Sir Topham Hatt walked towards the sheds with bad news: “Due to bad weather,” he started. “We would have to cancel the Carol Performance.”

Percy was flabbergasted. “Why for? Is there a blizzard?”

“It is too warm to snow, so it would rain instead.”

Percy was heartbroken. Having no carollers meant that his holiday spirits were down. This was Percy’s most important staple of the holiday.



“Please sir,” Nia asked. “Could I find a way to help Percy out? Without the carollers, Percy would be Depressed during the holidays this year.”

“You can try.” Answered Sir Topham Hatt. “I won’t guarantee that it’ll work. However, I’ll leave it up to you.”

And he walked towards his car, then drove away.

“Do you think your idea would work?” Percy asked, in a weak manner.

“I’ll see what I’ll do.” Nia responded.

Her driver started her fire and opened the regulator, Nia chuffed away to find how to cheer up Percy.

“So, what’s your plan?” Her driver asked.

“If Percy can’t see the carollers perform, then we’ll bring the carollers to them.” She replied. “In other words, we’ll need to find a freight car in order to transport them in, without getting wet.”



First, Nia stopped by the big station’s shunting yard. She spotted Anthony.

“Excuse me.” Nia asked. “Could I borrow you for a special job?”

“Like what? Movies? Slideshows?”

“None of that, I need you to transport carollers to Ffarquhar. It’s very special to a friend of mine.”

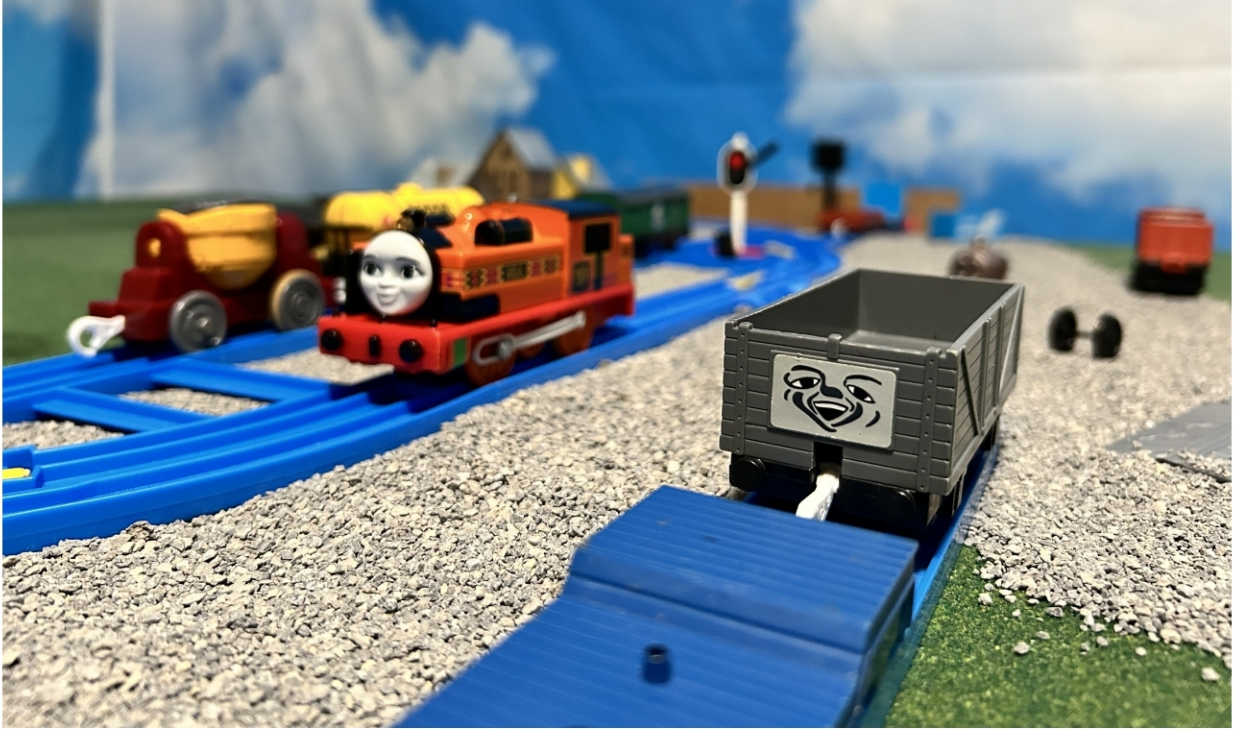
“Sorry.” Anthony answered. “I could only carry film equipment and supervisors. Besides, I’m tired of hearing them perform the same songs every holiday time.”

This didn’t work for Nia, however she didn’t give up.





She asked Thomas for his coaches, but Thomas had important work with them. Next, she tried the quarry near Harwick. She saw some china clay trucks, but they weren't suitable for the task. Nia looked around, nothing caught her eye. After an hour of looking, she was ready to give up.



When she was heading back home, a voice called out, “Hey Nia.”

“Who was that?”

“Are you looking for something to transport some people?”

Nia hesitated for a moment, “Yes, I am.”

“You can take it on me.” The voice came from a Troublesome Truck.

“You're just a Troublesome Truck.” Nia stared at it.

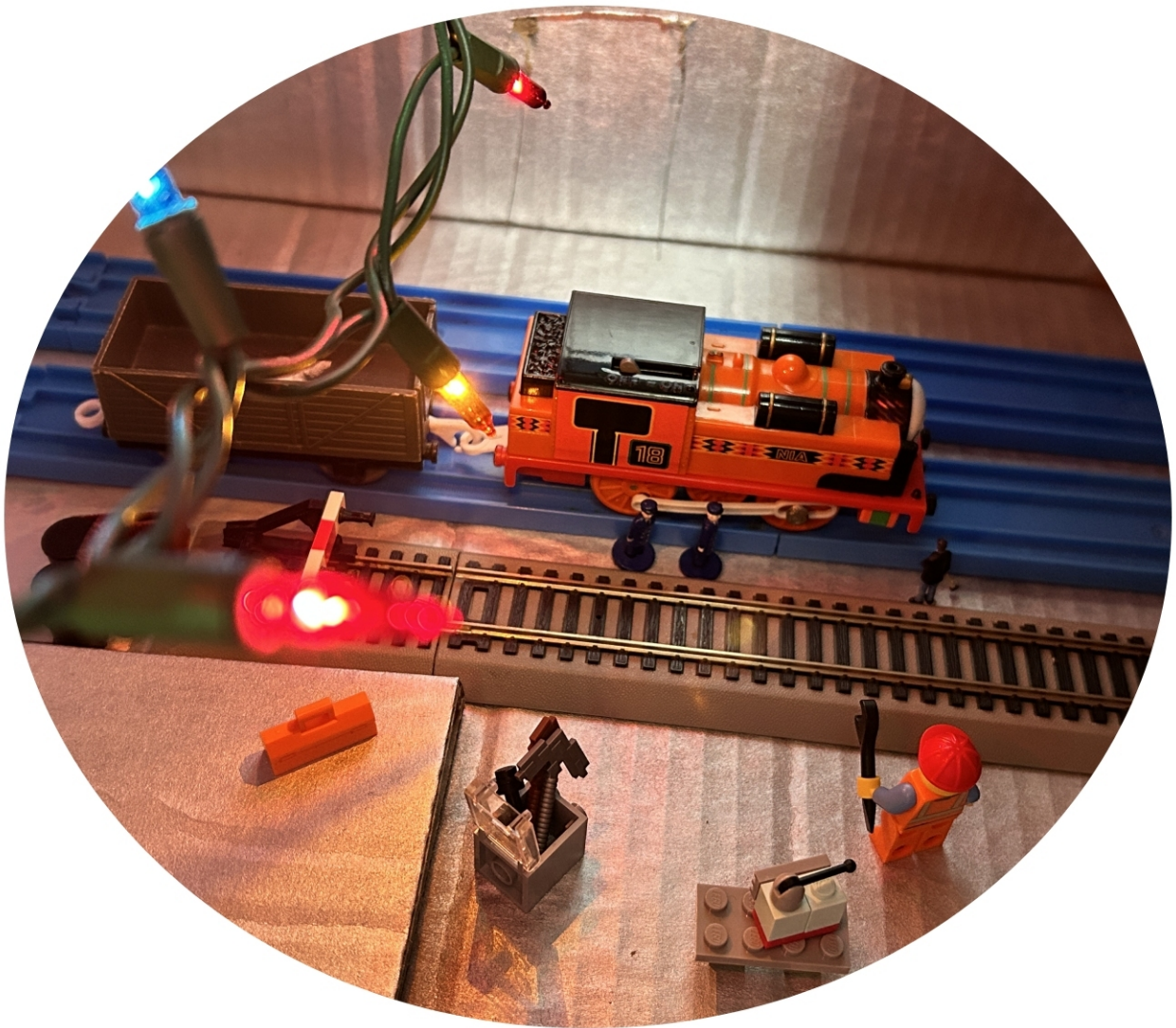
“I'd like to be useful one day, and I think my chance has come.”

“A Troublesome Truck, becoming useful and not troublesome for a change?” Nia wondered. “That's so unusual, that...”

“You see that old roof over there?” It pointed towards a rusted roof left out from an old van. “I'd like to use that.”

“That's Perfect!” Nia cheered. “You've probably read my idea!” And Nia told the idea with the truck.

“Well, what are you waiting for? Take me and the roof to the works at once!” The truck demanded.



As Nia took the truck to The Works, workers began to modify the truck. When it was ready, Nia fetched the carollers, and traveled down to Ffarquhar.

Percy was still feeling devastated. By the time Nia arrived, his mood had changed. There to his surprise was Carols On Wheels!



“Happy Holidays Percy!” Nia cheered as they listened to a carol.

“Nia! This is PERFECT!” Percy beamed. “It’s probably my best Christmas gift ever!”

“Well, thank you Percy, though you don’t need to just thank me...”

“You can thank a former Troublesome Truck for the idea too.” Carols On Wheels replied.

Sir Topham Hatt also arrived to hear what was singing. After finding out, he gave Nia a hearty, “Well Done for your resourceability.”

Percy whistled with glee as he, Nia, and the rest of the crew stayed to see and hear the carollers perform out in the open rain.

The party never ends with Thomas
& his really useful crew!



Be sure to look for other
compilations and content on
YouTube, Instagram, and more!

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